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re the KATYN Massacre

14 July 1961

CURRY

DATE OF DISSEMINATION: 1, July 1961

1. Source stated that the truth behind the KATYN Massacre first became known to him when source was interrogating FUCHTER (see YF-744) in Danzig shortly after the war. FUCHTER confessed the massacre and stated that it had not been perpetrated by the Nazis but rather by the Russians in order to eliminate the conservative and anti-Soviet circles in the Polish Army. Source later mentioned FUCHTER's statements to Colonel KILAR, his advisor in Danzig, and the latter was visibly embarrassed by the subject but did not deny FUCHTER's statements.

2. In November 1956 Colonel FUCHAREV, SIS advisor to the UB, got drunk during a party at source's apartment and started discussing Stalin's crimes. FUCHAREV stated that he had been counter-intelligence (SMERSH) officer of a division when the KATYN massacre took place and therefore knew that it had been done on the direct orders from STALIN. FUCHAREV stated that STALIN had issued orders for only such brutalities and acts of terror. FUCHAREV got quite emotional during the conversation and said that STALIN had been a beast and had forced Russians to do many things against their will and for which they would suffer for many years to come. The following day FUCHAREV looked up source in the latter's apartment and begged that source forget all about FUCHAREV's revelations the previous evening since FUCHAREV would obviously be in a very embarrassing position if it ever became known that he had made such statements and such revelations. Source naturally assured FUCHAREV that his lips were sealed and he never discussed the matter again with FUCHAREV.

3. At a very dramatic meeting during the evening of 16 October 1956 presided over by GOMULKA personally, a number of senior officers and government officials used the opportunity to give vent for their feelings against the Russians. After a number of complaints had been registered and the spirits were high, an officer (at source's instigation) got up and asked Comrade GOMULKA to tell the audience the truth about the KATYN massacre. GOMULKA got visibly upset by the matter and stated that the matter would have to be investigated one day, that the truth about it was not known but that the time had not yet come for such action. The matter was not discussed again on that evening.

4. In the beginning of 1957, source had occasion to discuss the matter with General BAKOWSKI (Chief, G.I.) and the latter stated that he knew that the massacre had been done by the Russians and that their reason for doing it had been to get rid of the bourgeois officers in the Polish Army.

5. Source has not discussed the subject with anyone else in Poland.

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or in Russia. He does not think that the truth is generally known in Poland and thinks that it would have a tremendous impact on the Poles if the truth were ever to become known to the man on the street.

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